

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Drew Nannis (202) 225-5065

**STARK PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL E-HEARING TO ADDRESS THE US AUTOMOBILE CRISIS**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Pete Stark (D-CA, 13th) made the following statement to open "The American Automobile Industry in Crisis," a national e-hearing.

"I would like to thank Congressman Miller for holding this e-hearing on "The American Automobile Industry in Crisis." Learning the views of workers and affected parties across the country will help us make positive policy changes that can help bring the American auto industry back from the brink of extinction.

"I am fortunate that my district is home to one of the most innovative auto manufacturing plants in the country. The New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) in Fremont, California is a unique collaboration between General Motors and Toyota.

"NUMMI has a strong and open relationship with the United Auto Workers (UAW) which means 4,700 good paying jobs, with great health and retirement benefits for my constituents. Another 800 well-paid salaried workers also benefit from this collaboration. Still thousands more are employed by various parts suppliers in and around my district.

"While the challenges in my district may be different from those at auto-plants and suppliers around the country, I think much can be learned from the success at NUMMI. I urge people in my district to provide testimony to this e-hearing on how and why the joint-venture between Toyota and GM has been so successful.

**"I look forward to reviewing the testimony of all the workers and stakeholders concerned about the future of the American auto industry. I also hope this e-hearing provides some spark to move forward on the Pension Fairness Act authored by Mr. Miller of which I am an original cosponsor. Among other important pension protections, this bill would keep companies like Delphi from eliminating workers pensions while providing huge golden parachutes to wealthy executives.**

**"Again, I'm so pleased to join my colleagues as a co-sponsor of this event. Thanks in advance to all the GM and Delphi employees and others around the country who will participate in this important information gathering exercise."**